



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

For Immediate Release:
February 8, 2012

Contact: Jodie Tabak
(414) 286-8504

Barrett Renews Call for Non-Partisan Redistricting *Still time for good government*

MILWAUKEE--- In a letter to the Assembly Speaker and Senate Majority Leader today, Mayor Tom Barrett renewed his call upon the State Legislature to pass new legislative maps created by a non-partisan commission and avoid further costly litigation and saves taxpayers exorbitant legal costs.

“Newly released documents have shown disturbing evidence of government secrecy and orders to ignore public comment on the creation of election maps of state legislative districts,” Mayor Barrett said. “These actions should compel the legislature to create a non-partisan redistricting commission and pass new maps endorsed by that process.”

“The citizens of Wisconsin deserve to have their faith in democracy and open government restored,” Mayor Barrett added. “The legislature is still in session and has adequate time to create a non-partisan commission which could produce new maps for the legislature and Governor to pass before nomination papers are circulated. This action would go a long way in restoring Wisconsin’s reputation for fair, open, and representative government.”

Barrett first called for a non-partisan redistricting commission when Democrats controlled the legislature and redistricting process and again in January of last year. He proposed Wisconsin join states such as Iowa and California and reform our politically motivated system that protects incumbent politicians and reduces competitiveness and choices for voters. He suggested the Government Accountability Board and or the Legislative Reference Bureau could serve as that commission to approve non-partisan maps that could then be passed by the legislature and Governor.